

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE FISHERY POSITION EMERGES

SUMMARY. JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY HAS APPARENTLY GAINED FISHING
INDUSTRY ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. 200 MILE RESOURCES ZONE AND IS
PREPARING PUBLIC OPINION FOR POLITICAL DECISION FOR APPROVAL.
END SUMMARY.

1. WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMPLETED AND NEXT ROUND OF
FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. LOOMING, JAPANESE DECISION-
MAKING PROCESSES HAVE CLEARLY MOVED TO PREPARING JAPANESE
PUBLIC FOR NEXT STEPS. TWO LEADING MORNING NEWSPAPERS
TODAY CARRY STORIES THAT SIGNAL GOVERNMENT POSITION TO BE
TAKEN IN MEETING TODAY WITH PRESIDENTS OF FOUR LEADING
FISHERIES COMPANIES AND FOR DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TALKS.

2. GOVERNMENT IS NOW TELLING COMPANIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC
THAT JAPAN HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT U.S. LEGAL JURIS-
DICTION ON 200 MILE ZONE. THEY EXPECT GENERAL FRAMEWORK
TO BE AGREED UPON DURING NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS WITH DETAILS
BEING SETTLED IN JANUARY. IN THEIR PUBLIC INFORMATION
CAMPAIGN, GOVERNMENT SOURCES ARE APPARENTLY STRESSING
THREE ELEMENTS: (A) THERE IS HOPE THAT U.S. WILL GIVE
DUE RECOGNITION TO JAPANESE TRADITIONAL CATCH AMOUNTS,
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ESPECIALLY ON POLLOCK WHERE 900,000 TON LEVEL IS BEING

CITED; (B) NOW THAT SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO GIFA, 200 NAUTICAL MILES HAS BECOME ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE; AND (C) IF FISHING IS TO TAKE PLACE AFTER MARCH 1, JAPAN CAN DELAY NO LONGER.

3. NEWS STORIES NOTE THAT U.S. ATTITUDES ON CATCH QUOTAS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE LIBERAL THAN FIRST FEARED. ALASKA REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING BEING INTERPRETED AS BEING RELATIVELY GOOD NEWS FOR JAPAN.

4. FISHERIES INDUSTRY GROUP APPARENTLY INTENDS TELL GOVERNMENT TODAY THAT THEY WILL VOLUNTARILY CURTAIL NEXT YEAR'S CATCH BY 10 PERCENT, REDUCE NUMBER OF FISHING BOATS IN NORTHERN AREAS BY 10 PERCENT AND REDUCE AREAS AND PERIODS OF FISHING.

5. COMMENT: IT LOOKS AS IF WE ARE LARGELY OVER THE HUMP ON WHAT HAD SEEMED TO LOOM AS A CRITICAL ISSUE IN U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. WILLINGNESS OF FISHING INDUSTRY TO "VOLUNTARILY" REDUCE CATCH IS INTENDED TO SIGNIFY ITS ACQUIESCENCE TO NEW SYSTEM WITHOUT SEEMING TO SURRENDER. EMBASSY ENCOURAGES U.S. NEGOTIATORS TO BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL PERMIT JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS TO CITE U.S. CONSIDERATION FOR HISTORIC JAPANESE FISHING PATTERNS, PAST COOPERATION AND GENERALLY CLOSE US-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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